

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-15 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 /077 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FDHOOK

-----083916 120935Z /21

R 112138Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 11, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW:

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND
IN RHODESIA--THE SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER SMITH LAST NIGHT
AND THE REPLY THIS MORNING BY JOSHUA NKOMO IN WHICH HE SAID
AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR AN ALL-
PARTIES CONFERENCE?

A: UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF MR. NKOMO'S
PRESS CONFERENCE, I'M NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO COM-
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PAGE 03 STATE 229905ENT ON IT. I WOULD ONLY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO NOT
REGARD THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE AS DEAD OR BURIED. AS
(STATED IN) A COMMUNIQUE OR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WAS PUT
OUT BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON FOLLOW-
ING THE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND RICHARD
MOOSE AND TONY LAKE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS MUST
CONTINUE. WE BELIEVE THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CAN BE
ACHIEVED AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL MEETING
OF ALL PARTIES.

INSOFAR AS THE DECLARATION BY PRIME MINISTER SMITH OF A
FORM OF MARTIAL LAW, WE ARE SOMEWHAT HAMPERED SINCE PRIME
MINISTER SMITH HAS NOT GIVEN ANY DETAILS ON THE TYPE AND
NATURE OF THE MARTIAL LAW TO BE INTRODUCED. WE ARE, NONE-
THELESS, ENCOURAGED THAT HE HAS NOT RULED OUT PARTICIPATION
IN AN ALL-PARTIES PEACE CONFERENCE OR FURTHER MEETINGS
WITH LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

I HAVE ALREADY READ OUR PARTICULAR INTEREST ON THE PART OF
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN GROUPING TO SEE SUCH A CONFERENCE GO
FORWARD. I WOULD NOTE, IN REACTION TO ONE THING THE PRIME
MINISTER SAID, THAT THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH GOVERN-
MENTS ARE NOT BACKING ANY FACTION, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OR
ANY OTHER. OUR EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO ACTING AS

MEDIATORS TO BRING ALL THE PARTIES TOGETHER SO THEY CAN
NEGOTIATE WITH RHODESIA'S FUTURE. THAT'S ABOUT IT.

Q: YOU SAID YOU WERE ENCOURAGED THAT HE HAS NOT RULED OUT
A MEETING WITH EITHER ALL PARTIES OR WITH THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT.

A: YES.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WOULD WELCOME ANOTHER MEETING
BETWEEN SMITH AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, OR DO YOU THINK
THAT IT'S NECESSARY FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INTERNAL
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SETTLEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT SMITH
HOLDS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT?

A: I CANNOT, ON BEHALF OF THIS GOVERNMENT, SAY WHAT PEOPLE
SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DO IN TERMS OF MEETINGS THEY MAY
HAVE AMONG THEM, ALTHOUGH I WOULD SAY AS A GENERAL
PRECEPT, WE THINK THAT MEETING AMONG PEOPLE IN RIVAL
FACTIONS BEATS NOT MEETING AND CERTAINLY BEATS FIGHTING.
BEYOND THAT, THE OBJECTIVE THAT WE WOULD SEEK, TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION DIRECTLY, WOULD IN FACT BE A MEETING WHICH
INCLUDES ALL PARTIES BECAUSE WE DO NOT BELIEVE, AS WE
HAVE SAID ALL ALONG, THAT YOU CAN REACH A PEACEFUL SOLU-
TION FINALLY WITHOUT INCLUDING ALL THE PARTIES AND
INCLUDING ALL THE INTERNAL SETTLERS AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE
ENGAGED IN GUERRILLA AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, ON THE OTHER
HAND -- THE LEADERSHIP.

Q: YOU'RE NOT OPPOSED TO SEPARATE MEETINGS BETWEEN SMITH
AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT?

A: I'M NOT OFFERING A POSITION ON ANY KIND OF MEETINGS
THAT MAY TAKE PLACE.

Q: YOU SAID YOU WERE ENCOURAGED THAT HE WASN'T RULING OUT
THE POSSIBILITY --

Q: THAT'S CORRECT, BUT WHAT I'M SAYING JUST SIMPLY IS,
OBVIOUSLY IT IS BETTER TO TALK TOWARD THE END THAT WE
THINK IS NECESSARY, WHICH IS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
WHICH INCLUDES ALL THE PARTIES IN THE NEGOTIATION.

Q: HODDING, YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO DUCK WHAT I THINK IS THE
MAIN THRUST OF WHAT SMITH WAS SAYING, AND THAT IS THAT HE
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WILL NOW TAKE, THOUGH UNSPECIFIED, BUT STRONGER MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS AND HE WARNED MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA SPECIFICALLY THAT ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM.

A: YES. I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STAY WITH THE GUIDANCE ON THAT FOR SEVERAL REASONS, ONE, THE FORM OF WHAT IS TO COME IS NOT EVEN ALL THAT CLEAR IN THIS RHETORICAL PROPHECY, AND I THINK THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF CONCRETE STEPS, I'M IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON THEM.

Q: HAS HE GIVEN YOU ANY REASON TO FEEL THAT THIS IS RHETORIC?

A: WELL, IT'S RHETORIC BY DEFINITION. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT NO ACTIONS HAVE FOLLOWED.

Q: WELL, ANYTHING IS RHETORIC BY DEFINITION, EVEN WHAT YOU'

A: NO, NOT IF YOU ATTACK SOMEBODY; OR IF YOU DO SOMETHING ELSE, IT BECOMES ACTION. I'M SAYING AT THIS POINT IT IS FAR TOO IMPRECISE IN WHAT HE HAS SAID AND LACKING A GREAT NUMBER OF SPECIFICS FOR ME TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER.

Q: DID DICK MOOSE MEET WITH EITHER REV. SITHOLE OR MUZOREWA WHEN HE WAS IN LONDON LAST WEEK?

A: THAT'S AN OBVIOUS, UNANSWERED QUESTION. I'LL TAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: HODDING, HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE PROSPECTS NOW FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE?

A: I DO NOT HAVE AN ASSESSMENT TO OFFER. I THINK THAT THE REVIEW THAT WAS HELD IN LONDON DISCUSSED THOSE PROSPECTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND I ALSO AM CERTAIN THAT THE REVIEW LEFT BOTH SIDES CONVINCED THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD AND MUST BE HELD. I DON'T HAVE THE TIME SCHEDULE, HOWEVER, FOR ANY PROSPECTIVE MEETING.

Q: IS SECRETARY MOOSE BACK?

A: YES, AND TONY.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY "BOTH SIDES," WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT

HERE?

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A: BRITISH AND AMERICAN, AT THE CONFERENCE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE229905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780382-0066
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780980/aaaacohf.tel
Line Count: 227
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 558ee852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1481989
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 11, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY
TAGS: SOPN
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/558ee852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014